(b) whether it is also a fact that in spite of such serious involvement, they continue to be in the employment of NCCF, if so, the reasons for not suspending these officers so far?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) It has been reported by the NCCF that one clerk of the Lucknow Sub-Office of the NCCF was found responsible for the shortages in the stocks of sugar. Orders for recovery of the value of shortage from the employee have already been issued. The matter against the incharge Sub-Office, Lucknow, is under investigation of U.P. Police and further action would be taken on receipt of the Police investigation report.

Surplus cattle feeds

737. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Dairy Development Board has circulated a pamphlet in EEC countries claiming that India has surplus of cattle feeds contrary to the news of NCA & all other Experts;

(b) whether any action has been taken against those responsible for such false information; and

(c) whether Government propose to ban all export of animal feeds and achieve self-sufficiency in milk production and stop gift & commercial imports as proposed under Op. Flood-I & II?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) There is no organisation known as Indian Dairy Development Board and hence the question of circulating a pamphlet by it does not arise.

(c) The Export Policy of animal feeds is restricted and exports are allowed within limited ceilings. There is no proposal to stop imports of commodities under Operation Flood-III.

Amendment of Urban Land Ceiling Act

738. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 672 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd March, 1985 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering proposals for amending the Urban Land Ceiling Act, 1976;

(b) whether the formalities have been completed in this regard or not; and

(c) what are the details of the proposed amendment and by when it is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It is not in the public interest to disclose the details at this stage. It is difficult to indicate any date by which the Act is likely to be amended.

Price of Soyabean

739. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the apprehension in the minds of "Soyabean Cultivators" that the prevailing remunerative prices of soyabean are likely to crash because of the possible import of large quantity of Soyabean in near future to meet the requirements of Soyabean processors; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to ensure that the

farmers continue to get remunerative prices for their produce irrespective of the likely import of Soyabean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government for import of soyabean in the near future.

Families crossing poverty line under IRDP

740. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the figures reported by the various State Governments in the recent past in regard to the actual number of families rising above the poverty line subsequent to the Integrated Rural Development Programme assistance, had been found to be grossly exaggerated;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to undertake an indepth study and survey by independent agencies to ascertain the actual benefit accruing from IRDP;

(c) whether Government have examined the findings of Shri B. N. Pandey's report to Orissa Government in this connection in which it was found that only sixteen per cent beneficiaries had actually crossed the poverty line; and

(d) what remedial measures are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) and (b) As crossing of the poverty line by a family is a gradual and continuing process, the collection of figures referred in part (a) of the question is not included as one of the items in the regular monitoring exercise of the Central Government. However, recently the Government have started a Concurrent Evaluation study of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) through a number of reputed research institutions. As per the findings of the survey for the period October-85 to September-86 in about 52% cases old beneficiaries have crossed the poverty line of Rs. 3,500/- and about 12% of old beneficiaries have crossed the revised poverty line of Rs. 6400.

(c) and (d) The Government is aware of the review made by Shri B. N. Pandey that 16% of the beneficaries only in Ganjam District in Orissa have crossed the poverty line. The Centre had requested the Orissa Government to comment on the findings of Shri B. N. Pandey's review. The State Government has indicated that in Ganjam District, as per the result of the Concurrent Evaluation of IRDP, 30% of assisted beneficiaries had crossed the poverty line of Rs. 3500.

A corrective measure recommended in Shri B. N. Pandey's review pertain to conducting a comprehensive study of the impact of IRDP and its limitations by an independent and technically competent agency. Accordingly, the State Government has entrusted an evaluation study of IRDP in Ganjam District to the Prof. and Head of the Department of Economics, Khallikote College, Berhampur.

Atrocities on Scheduled Castes in Hindi speaking States

741. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases of atrocities on Scheduled Castes are the highest in the Hindi speaking States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar; and

(b) if so, what special remedial measures have been initiated so far